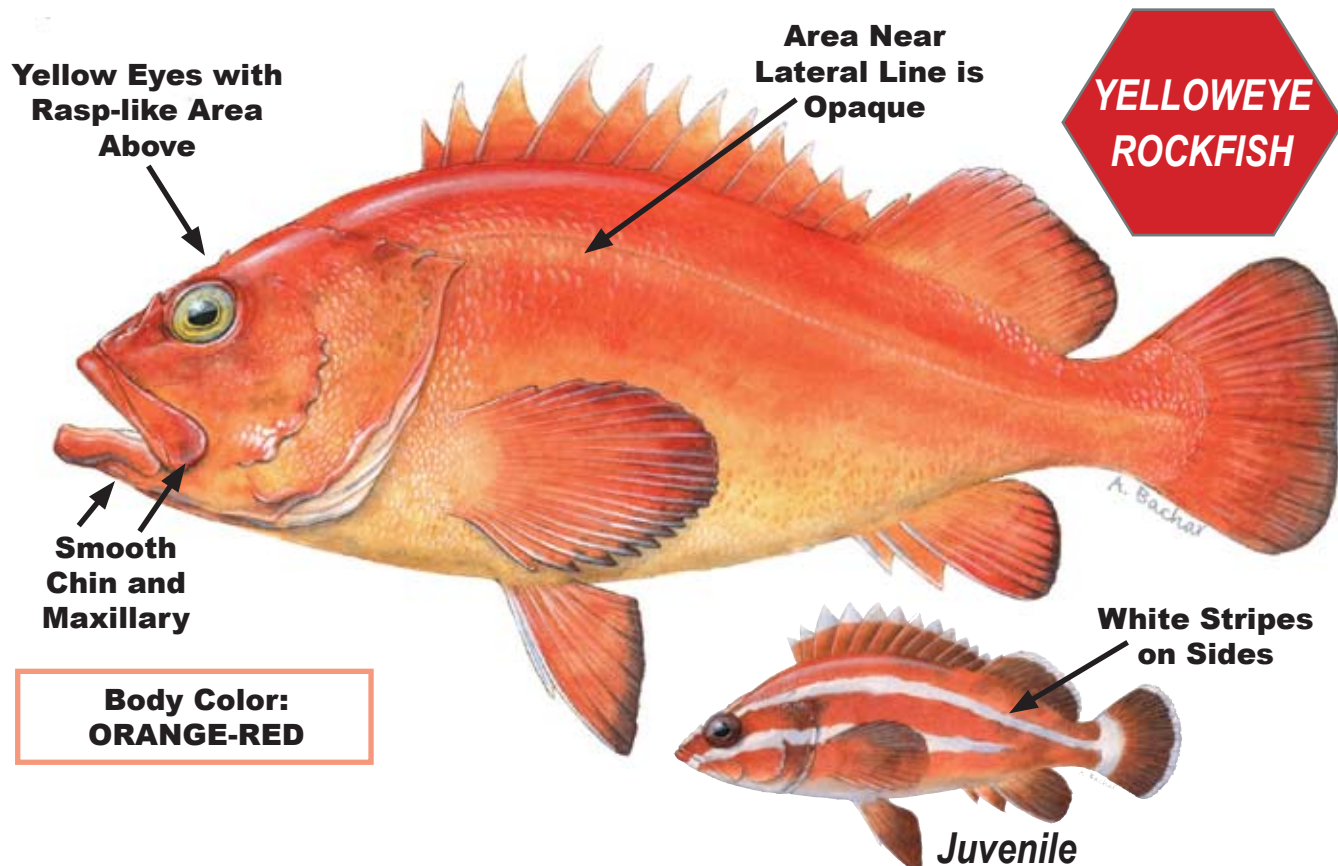


YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH MAY NOT BE RETAINED IN CALIFORNIA

Yelloweye rockfish are sometimes misidentified as other reddish-colored rockfishes.



“Overfished Rockfishes”... How You Can Help

Through a combination of poor ocean conditions and increased fishing pressure, some rockfish populations have dwindled to very low levels. These populations have been declared “overfished” by the federal government, and rebuilding plans have been implemented to rebuild depleted populations as quickly as possible.

Some species of rockfish are recovering well under their rebuilding plans, such as bocaccio and widow rockfish. Anglers may keep these and many other species as prescribed in current fishing regulations.

Yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish are two “overfished” species that are not recovering as quickly. It is illegal to keep these species in

California, and violators are subject to fines. Because of their slower recovery rate, canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish must be returned to the water immediately after being caught, to increase their chances of survival.

Here are some things you can do to reduce your impacts on overfished rockfish species, and increase your future fishing opportunities:

Don’t fish where overfished species occur. If you encounter more than one individual of an overfished species, move to a different fishing spot to reduce the number of fish caught that may not survive after being released.

Know your fish and educate others. Familiarize yourself with the rockfish in your area through resources such as fish identification books and guides (see www.RockfishID.com), informational flyers, the DFG Web site (www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishid.asp), game wardens, and port samplers.

Minimize the fish’s injuries. When rockfish are brought up from depth, decreasing pressure may injure them. These injuries may cause the fish to float helplessly at the surface. Many anglers use an inverted, weighted plastic crate with a rope attached to the bottom to help the fish regain depth, or a weighted, inverted barbless hook or commercially available fish descending device. Visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/release.pdf for more information.

Handle fish as gently as possible. Use wet hands (not towels, which may remove protective slime) and do not touch the eyes. Get the fish back in the water quickly. Use barbless hooks, and avoid using treble hooks. Visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/releasing.pdf for more information.

For up-to-date information on rockfish regulations that pertain to your area, call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at (831) 649-2801 or visit www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/groundfishcentral.

